

Irosun Ofun: Sacred Odu of Ifa — Meaning, Teachings & Wisdom

By Ajarn Surya Nuranyana · Buddha University Press

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The Profound Wisdom of Irosun Ofun: Completing the Cycle of Vitality

Irosun Ofun is one of the 256 sacred Odu of Ifá, the profound divination system of the Yoruba people of West Africa, a tradition recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage. This powerful Odu represents far more than a mere combination of symbols; it embodies a profound energetic blueprint, a cosmic narrative that guides initiates through the intricate dance of life, death, and rebirth. To truly grasp the essence of Irosun Ofun is to tap into the wisdom of completion, the culmination of vital experience, and the offering of that wisdom for the benefit of all. It speaks of a life force that has journeyed through the full spectrum of existence, emerging enriched and ready to impart its profound understanding. [OrishaUniversity.com](https://www.orishauniversity.com/odu/irosun-ofun) offers an in-depth exploration of this and other Odu, serving as a vital resource for those seeking to delve deeper into Ifá.

The Combination: Irosun and Ofun Interacting

The unique energy of Irosun Ofun arises from the powerful interaction of its constituent Odu: Irosun and Ofun. Irosun, as the primary Odu, is deeply connected to the vital force, lineage, and the flow of life. It symbolizes the generative power of existence, often associated with menstrual blood as a metaphor for continuity and the deep connections between the physical and spiritual realms. It emphasizes embracing ancestral legacy and honoring life's cycles. Ofun, on the other hand, represents completion, the sacred utterance, and the culmination of wisdom. When these two energies converge in Irosun Ofun, they create an Odu that signifies "the completing blood" – the vital force that has undergone a full cycle of expression and now offers the profound wisdom gained from that journey. It is the sacred completion vitalized by the most powerful blood-force, where the authentic finishing utterance is profoundly expressed through complete and vitally powerful blood-force.

Core Themes and Energies: Life's Ultimate Lessons

Irosun Ofun embodies several core themes and energies that provide invaluable life lessons. At its heart, it speaks of the wisdom of completion. Individuals associated with this Odu carry the vital wisdom of a full life cycle, offering insights born from a complete range of vital expressions. This is the archetype of the elder healer, whose medicine is potent because it encompasses the full spectrum of experience – from the intense to the patient, the hidden to the illuminated, the royal to the humble. It highlights the physiological wisdom that comes from sustaining through the complete range of vital expressions. A key teaching is the need to honor the full cycle of one's vital expression, allowing the completing blood to rest before a new cycle begins.

Furthermore, Irosun Ofun often brings warnings about traps, betrayals, and even conflicts among siblings. It advises against making promises one cannot keep and emphasizes the importance of fulfilling obligations. There are also insights into potential health issues such as sexual weakness, skin ailments, and blood problems in the family line. However, despite these challenges, Irosun Ofun also promises good fortune, success, wealth, and stable relationships through proper offerings and adherence to Ifá's guidance.

Sacred Pataki: The Divination of Orunmila Before Coming to Earth

One significant pataki (sacred story) associated with Irosun Ofun illustrates its wisdom through the journey of Orunmila himself. Before Orunmila descended to Earth, he sought divination, and it was Efun fun Iere, an Awo, who divined for him. Orunmila was advised not to dedicate himself solely to the

practice of Ifá but to also engage in trade. He was instructed to make sacrifices, including 16 doves, a goat, white cloth, and cowries for his Guardian Angel, and to serve Eshu with a goat, corn, yams, and plantains. Orunmila diligently performed all the prescribed sacrifices before his descent. However, upon arriving on Earth, he initially focused on the practice of Ifá but did not experience a stable life. Later, through another divination, he was reminded that he had strayed from his destiny and was meant to engage in trade. He was advised to serve Ifá by decorating his throne with white chalk and cloth, and to serve Olokun and Eshu with specific offerings. When Olokun received his sacrifices, he remembered the promise made to Irosun Ofun in Heaven to help him.</p>

<p>This pataki teaches the importance of listening to and following divine guidance, even when it seems to divert from an initial path. It highlights that true prosperity and stability often come from aligning with one's complete destiny, which may involve diverse endeavors. It also underscores the power of sacrifice and the enduring nature of divine promises.</p>

<p><h3>The Ase of Irosun Ofun: Domains and Orishas</h3></p>

<p>The Ase (power and authority) of Irosun Ofun governs several crucial domains of life. It particularly excels in healing and sustaining work that requires the vital wisdom of completion. This includes elder healers who have navigated the full spectrum of healing expressions and now offer from that completeness, as well as those who mentor others from the depth of their vital experience. In terms of health, Irosun Ofun governs the physiology of vital completion, emphasizing the well-being of a body that has offered its vital force throughout a full cycle.</p>

<p>Several Orishas are closely associated with Irosun Ofun, reflecting its multifaceted energies. Obatala is often highlighted, and individuals are advised to make sacrifices to him and to hold onto him for support and well-being. Ifá itself, as the system of divination, is central, with consistent advice to seek its guidance and make necessary offerings. Other Orishas mentioned in connection with Irosun Ofun (or its inverse, Ofun Irosun) include Ori, Ogun, Oshun, Yemayá, Olokun, and Shango. The Odu also emphasizes the importance of tending to Elegba.</p>

<p><h3>Practical Application: Working with the Energy of Irosun Ofun</h3></p>

<p>Working with the energy of Irosun Ofun in daily life involves embracing its core themes and heeding its wisdom. Here are some practical applications:</p>

Embrace the Wisdom of Experience: Recognize the value of your life journey, especially your challenges and triumphs. Understand that every experience contributes to your vital wisdom.

